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Inside Wallops

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Shepherd Leads Crew Into New Era In Space

The first resident crew members to live and work aboard the International Space station arrived at their new home in space Nov. 2, to begin a planned four month stay aboard the orbiting outpost.

The crew in its Soyuz capsule — Expedition Commander Bill Shepherd, Soyuz Commander Yuri Gidzenko and Flight Engineers Sergei Krikalev — made contact with the aft docking port to the Zvezda Service Module while the two spacecraft were flying over the central portion of Kazakhstan to complete a smooth, automated linkup.

From left are Russian cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev, Yuri Gidzenko and Commander Bill Shepherd.

American astronaut Bill Shepherd launched a new era in space history Oct. 31, when he lifted off in a Russian Soyuz spacecraft from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan en route to his new home aboard the International Space Station.

Shepherd, of Babylon, NY, is commander of the three-person Expedition 1 crew, the first of several crews that will live aboard the space station for periods of about four months. He is accompanied by cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko, commander of the Soyuz, and flight engineer Sergei Krikalev on this historic journey.

Aboard the station, the crew will help with assembly tasks as new elements, including the U.S. Laboratory, are added to the orbiting outpost. They will also conduct early science experiments.

For the more about the ISS mission , go to: http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/index.html

NASA'S Chandra Captures Gamma-Ray Afterglow

The Chandra Observatory's sharp-eyed X-ray vision has detected something never before seen. The discovery may help find the origin of what many researchers believe are the most powerful explosions in the Universe.The clues are found in the afterglow of a gamma-ray burst (GRB) and could strengthen the case for a "hypernova" model, where massive collapsed stars generate these mysterious blasts of high-energy radiation.

An international team of scientists used Chandra to observe iron emission lines from ejected material surrounding one such burst known as GRB991216. This is the first time emission lines associated with GRBs have been unambiguously detected and their properties precisely measured at X-ray wavelengths.

The research team included Pennsylvania State University's Gordon Garmire, principal investigator for the ACIS instrument, Michael Garcia of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, MA and other colleagues from the United States, Italy, Japan, and the Netherlands.

Images can be found at: http://chandra.harvard.edu

Wallops Shorts……

Cafe under Construction

The NASA cafeteria is scheduled to undergo rehab beginning Nov. 13. During this period, the solarium and adjacent eating area will be closed.

To accommodate diners, the E-2 conference room will be used for eating and the Williamsburg Room will be used for any overflow. In addition, the only entrance into the cafeteria will be through the main front door.

Fire Department Responses

Oct. 26 through Nov. 2
Aircraft Standbys - 33
Fire Alarms - 5

New Office Chiefs

Effective Nov. 5, the International Space Station Research Program Office was established within the Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects Directorate. Elizabeth A. Parks was named Office Chief.

Effective Nov. 5, George W. Postell was selected Chief of the Aircraft Office.

Judy A. Vucovich has been selected Chief, Resources Management Office effective Dec. 16, 2000.

The next edition of Inside Wallops will be Nov. 20.

Display of NASA Identification Badges

by A. V. Diaz, Director

To better protect personnel and property at all Federal facilities, the Department of Justice recommends minimum security standards. NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) Announcement #96-32, dated May 14, 1996, required all employees (civil servants and contractors) as well as visitors to conspicuously display their NASA GSFC badge at or above the waistline while on the Center.

Recent security assessments, conducted at the Center by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of Inspector General, cited relatively low percentage of employees who observe our badge display policy or who fail to challenge unbadged individuals in their work areas. Your help is urgently needed to correct this serious security weakness. Voluntarily displaying your badge will aid in protecting employees, visitors and government and personal property.

Many civil servants have old badges that over time have become delaminated, no longer have clearly identifiable photographs or have otherwise become mutilated. If you have such a badge, please obtain a replacement by visiting the Reception Center in Building N-127.

To further enhance the Center's overall security posture:

Politely remind individuals of the mandatory badge display requirement if you observe them not displaying a NASA GSFC badge.

Inform Wallops Security, x1333, of anyone you observe acting suspiciously or obviously ignoring our badge display policy.

Remember your responsibility to reasonably monitor visitors you host or sponsor to ensure they do not stray into areas not specified in their visit plans.

Don't forget that safety and security are employee responsibilities and key elements of mission success.

Don't leave your NASA GSFC badge in your vehicle. A badge can become the "key" that allows access to the Facility by unauthorized individuals.

If you have comments or questions, contact Dave Moulton, Security Director on x66-7233 or by email: David.L.Moulton.1@gsfc.nasa.gov

NASA Visitor Center Events Scheduled for November

Nov. 4 — Model Rocket Launch

A model rocket launch will be held at 1 p.m. Models of various rockets will be launched. Model rocketeers are invited to bring their own rockets and launch them. The launch will be canceled if it is raining or winds exceed 18 mph.

Nov. 25 – Star Party

1 p.m. – "Stars in the Sky". Children will create star posters and learn how to recognize some of the better-known constellations. Parents are encouraged to attend this 30-minute program.

3 p.m. – "Our Star the Sun". The Sun is approaching solar max and the number of sunspots is increasing. Take a peek through the Visitor Center (VC) telescope and find out how many sunspots are visible. The telescope is equipped with a solar filter allowing safe viewing of the Sun.

6 p.m. to 10 p.m. – "Evening Sky". Watch the stars become visible as the Sun sets. Find the circumpolar constellations and get a closer view of stars and planets through the VC telescope. If you have your own telescope, bring it along! The event will be canceled if it is raining or overcast skies.

Puppets in Space is a 10-minute puppet show presented at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Humans in Space is a 30-minute program presented at 1 p.m on Sundays.

Children 5 to 10 years old can earn a "Space Ace" certificate and a lithograph any day they come to the Visitor Center by completing an activity sheet.

The Visitor Center is open Thursday through Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is closed on Tuesday and Wednesday. For further information, call Berit Bland, x2297.

Coping with Chronic Illness

Dr. Chris Garner, Employee Assistance Program (EAP), affiliate counselor will host the next discussion group on Nov. 9 in Building F-160. The topic is "Coping with Chronic Illness".

This discussion group will address the difficult thoughts and feelings often experienced in dealing with chronic illness. Resources for information and assistance will be made available.

Call the EAP, x66-4600 for further information.

For Sale

2000 4-door Interpid, 24,000 miles. Call (757) 824-2461 or after 5 p.m. call (410) 896-2004.

Fourth grade students from Ann Arundel Co., Md. prepare experiments for integration into Student Experiment Modules (SEM) 09 scheduled for launch on the Space Shuttle in February 2001.

Weather Summary

by Bob Steiner, Meteorologist

The month just passed may be the driest October on record. Total precipitation recorded for the month was .01 inches, which fell on Oct. 6. Normally, we receive precipitation on seven days during October. This year we are 2.93 inches below the normal total for the month. Traces of precipitation were recorded on only two other days.

Temperatures for the month averaged only one degree above normal even though we experienced 20 days with above average temperatures. This was offset by 18 nights with below average temperatures. The high for the month was 86° recorded on Oct. 4. The low of 34° occurred on Oct. 29. No record temperatures were tied or set.

Looking forward to the holiday season, December begins with high temperatures in the low 50s and ends only slightly cooler with the highs still in the upper 40s. Average low temperatures begin in the mid- 30s and average 30° by New Year's Eve. The record high temperature for December is 76° set in 1978. The record low of 4° was set in 1989. We can expect to receive 3.2 inches of precipitation, which falls, on average, only nine days during the month. The average number of days with measurable snowfall is one with an average depth of 1.3 inches.

December is that time of year we look forward to getting together with family and friends. For some of us this means traveling out of the area. Even though we are accustomed to mild weather and dry road conditions locally, keep in mind as you travel away from the coast conditions can change rapidly without notice.

Have a save and happy Thanksgiving.

Exchange Notes

Gallant greeting cards are now available for sale in the Wallops Exchange. Another new addition is Vector denim caps and denim shirts. Stop by the Exchange, Building E-2, and see other gift ideas for the upcoming holiday season.

Wallops Logistics Team Relocated

Effective Friday, Nov. 3, the Wallops Logistics Team will move to the West Wing of Building F-160 (formerly the Wallops Personnel Office). Timmy Abbott, Terry Ewell, Bob Herrick, Wanamaker Lawrence, Regina Waters and Kirk Webb will be relocated to those offices and can be reached at the same telephone numbers as before.

All travelers must come to Building F-160 to pick up government vehicles.

The Logistics Support contractor employees will be relocated to Building F-16 and can be reached at the same telephone numbers as before. Ed Bohl will be in Room 105 and Nancy Englehart will be in Room 121.

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http://www.wff.nasa.gov